

TEXAN: ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS KRISTIAN MENCHACA—MEMBER OF THE BAND OF BROTHERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the 101st Airborne of the United States Army is otherwise known as the Band of Brothers. They were called the Screaming Eagles of World War II. They held off the Germans in the battle of the Bulge. Their legacy was continued, as the 101st remained on duty in the blistering heat of Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Once again fighting the forces of tyranny and terrorism.

Twenty-three year old Kristian Menchaca was born May 29, 1983, in my hometown of Houston, Texas. He moved to Brownsville with his mother, Maria Guadalupe Vasquez, when he was a young boy. He attended Gary Job Corps center in San Marcos, TX, where he completed the correctional officers training program in six months and earned a certificate. Kristian Menchaca told his family Christmas Day, 2004 that he planned to enlist. They tried to talk him out of it, but Kristian Menchaca insisted, and his family came around.

He had the goal of using his military experience to become a Border Patrol agent. He scored so high on his entrance test that he was given the option to bypass the infantry. He chose not to do that. Instead, he signed up in March 2005 and wound up in the 101st Airborne. He married his wife, Christina, three weeks before he was deployed with the United States Army. The Army turned Kristian Menchaca's life around. It gave him a greater purpose, a higher calling.

In June of 2006, at an outpost near Baghdad, American volunteers of the 101st found themselves surrounded and attacked by the enemy. One soldier, Specialist David Babineau, was killed in the skirmish. Private First Class Kristian Menchaca and Private First Class Thomas Tucker were kidnapped, captured, and later, murdered.

He left behind a wife, a family, and a lot of grateful Americans.

This enemy we fought in the desert sands of Iraq and Afghanistan were evil villains who oppose our righteous and just cause to proclaim freedom throughout the world. These terrorists took no prisoners. They had no POW camps. News reports claimed the attackers of the outpost all wore masks to cover their faces.

Mr. Speaker, outlaws and bandits of the Old West wore masks to disguise who they were because they, like these terrorists, covered up their wicked intentions of destruction of everything that is good and right. But just like those outlaws, these criminals were hunted, tracked, and brought to a speedy end, because the 101st brought justice to the hot hills of Iraq.

Shakespeare said of the brothers in Henry V how they will be regarded. He said, "From this day to the ending of the world, but we in it shall be remembered; we few, we happy few, we band of brothers; for he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother."

Private First Class Kristian Menchaca was later awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and a Prisoner of War Medal.

We continue to honor Private First Class Kristian Menchaca and the Band of Brothers—the unyielding warriors that proved strongest against terror.

And that's just the way it is.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. ROBERT JENKINS

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the service of Mr. Robert Jenkins who passed away Monday, September 24, 2018. Robert Jenkins honored his country with a long career of service, first as a United States Marine, and then for over 30 years as an electronic technician for the federal government. His life was an example of commitment, love and service from which all of us would be wise to learn.

Robert was born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island on May 10, 1930. One of six children, Robert enlisted with the Marine Corps when he was 17 years old in 1947, requiring his parents' approval. He served with the 1st Marine Corps Division, 1st Weapon Battalion as 81mm Mortar Platoon Squad Leader. Stationed at numerous locations from Guam to Quantico, Virginia, Robert served in the Marine Corps for four years before being honorably discharged in 1951.

In 1953, he married Miriam Freedman, who preceded him in death in February 2012, and they raised four daughters together: Karen, Carol, Beverly, and Andrea. He went on to have eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. A loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather, Robert was a model for all of us not only in his work, but in his personal life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Mr. Jenkins and in thanking the Jenkins family their incredible sacrifices, devotion, and service to our nation; words cannot express our gratitude. On behalf of America's First District, we say thank you.

HONORING THE YMCA'S 135TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is truly a feat to reach a 100th anniversary, it is a greater feat to reach a 125th anniversary, but, Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize an organization within my district that has reached its 135th anniversary, the Yonkers Family YMCA.

The Yonkers Family YMCA began in 1882 by accident. Story has it that the founders were traveling to New York City, but became lost in Yonkers. They decided to open a local chapter of the YMCA in Yonkers, and 135 years later, the Yonkers Family YMCA remains a cornerstone of the community.

"To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all." That's the YMCA's mission statement, which strives to provide a safe environment where those in the commu-

nity can better their lifestyle through health and fitness. As such, the Yonkers Family YMCA offers a variety of programs year-round for Yonkers residents and the surrounding area, that include boxing, aquatics, youth, and teen summer camps, as well as youth employment training programs.

It would not be possible for the Yonkers Family YMCA to offer the wellness programs and services to the community without help from the community itself. Yonkers has always stood by the YMCA, and continues to support its vital mission.

I would be remiss to not mention the YMCA's leadership, which ensures the continued success of the YMCA on a day-to-day basis: Shawyn Patterson-Howard, Marisol Mancebo, Vincet Talia Ferro, John Thompson, Donald Golding, Mercedes Bangari, Donald Somerville, Carolyn Mosha, Franklin Peat, and Keith Guinyard. Additionally, I want to also thank the Board of Directors for their continual support of the YMCA: Maria George, Steven Tvert, Arnaldo Torres, John Pagliarola, Christopher Jonson, Jade Sharpe and Maurine Koranteng.

Mr. Speaker, the Yonkers Family YMCA has been a central part of the lives of people all throughout the region for well over a century. It's a remarkable feat that deserves this recognition. Congratulations to the entire Yonkers Family YMCA family for 135 years of service, and may they have many more years of great success.

INSIDER THREATS TO AVIATION SECURITY: AIRLINE AND AIRPORT PERSPECTIVES

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, thank you, Chairman KATKO and Ranking Member WATSON COLEMAN, for calling this important hearing to take a closer look at the new challenges that pose security threats to airports and carriers nationwide.

As Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Aviation Subcommittee, I am committed to ensuring the United States continues to have the safest air-space system in the history of flight. In light of recent events, it is clear there is more Congress can do to make the system safer.

Less than two months ago, on August 10, 2018, an airline employee stole an aircraft at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (Sea-Tac) in my home state of Washington and engaged in unauthorized flight.

If not for the rapid response teams, particularly Sea-Tac air traffic controllers and the Air National Guard, who remained calm throughout a very intense situation and worked diligently to contain the incident, this tragedy could have devastated communities in North-west Washington.

Sea-Tac is a major hub in the national airport network and has long been a leader in airport security. The airport conducts extensive security clearance measures and thorough employee background checks, and uses advanced technologies to ensure the safety of its passengers and employees.

However, this incident demonstrates the need for the federal government and industry